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ducted by the Tangipahoa Parish School Board, Amite, Louisiana, shall be relieved of all liability to the United States for the amount of such overpayment, remaining due on the effective date of this section, if he makes application for relief within two years following the date of enactment of this Act, and if the Administrator finds that such veteran—

(1) owned, or operated under a valid lease, a farm which met the requirements of the law and implementing Veterans' Administration regulations;

(2) was engaged in the cultivation of such farm and was not employed on a full-time basis in a non-farm occupation; and

(3) participated in the institutional instruction furnished by the Tangipahoa Parish School Board in connection with the institutional on-farm training program, even though such instruction may not have met all of the requirements of the law and implementing Veterans' Administration regulations.

In the audit and settlement of the accounts of any certifying or disbursing officer of the United States, credit shall be given for amounts for which liability is relieved by this section.

Approved August 19, 1968.

FOREIGN SERVICE INFORMATION OFFICER CORPS

For Legislative History of Act, see p. 3471

PUBLIC LAW 90-494; 82 STAT. 810

[S. 633]

An Act to promote the foreign policy of the United States by strengthening and improving the Foreign Service personnel system of the United States Information Agency through establishment of a Foreign Service Information Officer Corps.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That:

There is hereby established a category of officers of the United States Information Agency (hereinafter referred to as "the Agency") to be known as Foreign Service information officers.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Sec. 2. It is the sense of the Congress that the establishment of a permanent career service for officers of the Agency who serve our country throughout the world in a vital function of the foreign relations of the United States is essential to enable the Director of the United States Information Agency (hereinafter referred to as "the Director") to carry out effectively such functions and responsibilities assigned to the Agency.

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

Sec. 3. The Congress of the United States hereby declares that the purposes of this Act are—

- (a) to provide a statutory basis necessary for a worldwide career officer personnel system designed to meet the continuing needs of both the Agency and those qualified citizens who shall serve as Foreign Service information officers in this vital activity;
- (b) to give the Director the full range of personnel authority necessary to establish and administer the Foreign Service Information Officer Corps;
- (c) to regularize the personnel system of the Agency by establishing a career service in which qualified Foreign Service information officers may be recruited, trained, and serve;
- (d) to assure maximum efficiency and flexibility in the utilization of the talents of Foreign Service information officers; and
- (e) to accord Foreign Service information officers the same rights and perquisites and to subject them to the same stringent judgment of performance as Foreign Service officers employed under the provisions of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended.

AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR

Sec. 4. Foreign Service information officers shall be under the direction and authority of the Director of the Agency. Authority available to the Secretary of State with respect to Foreign Service officers shall be available on the same basis to the Director of the Agency with respect to Foreign Service information officers, except as provided in section 11 of this Act.

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Sec. 5. The Foreign Service information officer personnel system shall be compatible with the Foreign Service officer personnel system. Toward this end, the Director with respect to the Foreign Service information officer personnel system and the Secretary of State with respect to the Foreign Service officer personnel system, after consultation with such officials as the President may determine, shall promulgate policies and regulations governing such systems. Both systems shall be administered, to the extent practicable, in conformity with general policies and regulations of the Federal Government issued in accordance with law.

APPOINTMENT AND ASSIGNMENT

Sec. 6. (a) Subject to section 4, Foreign Service information officers shall be appointed and assigned at classes and salaries, and in accordance with requirements and procedures, which correspond to those classes, salaries, requirements, and procedures, except with regard to career ambassadors, prescribed by sections

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412, 413, 421, 422, 431(c), 432, 441, 500, 501(b), 502(b), 511, 514 through 520, 571 through 575, and 578 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended.

(b) The President shall, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint Career Ministers for Information.

(c) The Secretary of State may, upon request of the Director, furnish the President with the names of Foreign Service information officers qualified for appointment to the class of Career Minister for Information, together with pertinent information about such officers, but no person shall be appointed into the class of Career Minister for Information who has not been appointed to serve in an Embassy as a Minister for Public Affairs or appointed or assigned to serve in a position which, in the opinion of the Director, is of comparable importance. A list of such positions shall from time to time be published by the Director.

(d) The per annum salary of a Career Minister for Information shall be the same as that provided by section 412 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended, for the class of Career Minister.

PROMOTION

Sec. 7. Foreign Service information officers shall be promoted in accordance with the provisions of sections 621 through 623, and 626 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended, and shall receive within-class salary increases in accordance with section 625 of such Act.

SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

Sec. 8. Foreign Service information officers shall be separated and retired in accordance with sections 631 through 637 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended.

PARTICIPATION IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

Sec. 9. (a) Foreign Service information officers shall be participants in and entitled to the benefits of the Foreign Service retirement and disability system under title VIII of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended, on the same basis as Foreign Service officers. Any such Foreign Service information officer who becomes a participant in such system shall make contributions to the Foreign Service retirement and disability fund on the same basis as Foreign Service officers.

(b) In accordance with such regulations as the President may prescribe, any Foreign Service Staff officer or employee appointed by the Agency who has completed at least ten years of continuous service, exclusive of military service, in the Foreign Service of the Agency shall become a participant in the Foreign Service retirement and disability system and shall make a special contribution to the Foreign Service retirement and disability fund in accordance with the provisions of section 852 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended.

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(c) Any such officer or employee who, under the provisions of paragraph (b) of this section, becomes a participant in the Foreign Service retirement and disability system, shall be mandatorily retired for age during the third year after the effective date of that paragraph if he attains age sixty-four or if he is over age sixty-four; during the fourth year at age sixty-three; during the fifth year at age sixty-two; during the sixth year at age sixty-one, and thereafter at age sixty.

(d) Any officer or employee who becomes a participant in the Foreign Service retirement and disability system under the provisions of paragraph (b) of this section who is age fifty-seven or over on the effective date of that paragraph, may retire voluntarily at any time before mandatory retirement under paragraph (c) of this section and receive retirement benefits under section 821 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended.

(e) The provisions of paragraph (b) of this section becomes effective on the first day of the first month which begins more than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, except that any Foreign Service Staff officer or employee, who at the time this Act becomes effective meets the requirements for participation in the Foreign Service retirement and disability system, may elect to become a participant in the system before the mandatory provisions become effective. Such Foreign Service Staff officers and employees shall become participants effective on the first day of the second month following the date of their application for earlier participation.

OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF LAW

Sec. 10. All other provisions of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended, or of any other law, which apply to Foreign Service officers and are not referred to above, shall be applicable to Foreign Service information officers.

COMMISSIONING AND ASSIGNMENT AS DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR OFFICERS

Sec. 11. (a) The Secretary of State may, upon request of the Director, recommend to the President that Foreign Service information officers be commissioned as diplomatic or consular officers, or both, in accordance with section 512 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended.

(b) The Secretary of State may, upon request of the Director, assign Foreign Service information officers, commissioned as diplomatic or consular officers, to serve under such commissions in accordance with sections 512 and 514 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended.

INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 12. For the purposes of this Act the term "Foreign Service officer" when used in the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended, or in any other provision of law shall be construed to mean "Foreign

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Service information officer" and the term "Secretary of State" when used with respect to authorities applicable to Foreign Service officers shall be construed to mean the Director of the United States Information Agency with respect to Foreign Service information officers.

TRANSFER OF AGENCY FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS TO FOREIGN SERVICE INFORMATION OFFICER STATUS

Sec. 13. Agency Foreign Service officers on active service on the effective date of this Act shall, by virtue of this Act, be transferred from the classes in which they are serving on such date to the comparable salaries and classes of Foreign Service information officers established by this Act. Service in the former class shall be considered as constituting service in the new class for the purposes of determining (1) eligibility for promotion, in accordance with the provisions of section 622, (2) liability for separation, in accordance with the provisions of section 633, (3) continuation of probationary status pursuant to section 635, and (4) credit for time served toward in-class promotion in accordance with section 625.

VETERANS' PREFERENCE

Sec. 14. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3320 of title 5 of the United States Code, the fact that any applicant is a veteran or disabled veteran, as defined in section 2108(1) or (2) of such title, shall be taken into consideration as an affirmative factor in the selection of applicants for initial appointment as Foreign Service officers or Foreign Service information officers.

TENURE OF FOREIGN SERVICE RESERVE OFFICERS

Sec. 15. (a) Any officer appointed as a Foreign Service Reserve officer after the date of enactment of this Act may serve as such for not more than five years. During such period (no sooner than the expiration of the third year but no later than the expiration of the fifth year) such Foreign Service Reserve officer shall be appointed as a Foreign Service officer, Foreign Service Information officer, Foreign Service Reserve officer with unlimited tenure, Foreign Service Staff officer, or shall be terminated as a Foreign Service Reserve officer.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 522 and 527 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended, an appointment of any Foreign Service Reserve officer existing on the date of enactment of this Act may be extended, but not beyond the expiration of the five-year period beginning on such date of enactment.

RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION OF FOREIGN SERVICE RESERVE OFFICERS

Sec. 16. (a) In accordance with such regulations as the President may prescribe, any Foreign Service Reserve officer with unlimited tenure shall become a participant in the Foreign Service retirement and disability system and shall make a special contribution to the Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Fund in accordance with

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the provisions of section 852 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended. Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, any Reserve officer referred to in the preceding sentence shall be mandatorily retired for age in accordance with the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section 9 of this Act.

(b) The provisions of sections 633 and 634 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended, shall apply to Foreign Service Reserve officers with unlimited tenure.

PRESENT FOREIGN SERVICE RESERVE OFFICERS

Sec. 17. Any Foreign Service Reserve officer appointed before the date of enactment of this Act who has completed at least three years of continuous and satisfactory service as such on such date of enactment, or who will have completed at least three years of such service before the expiration of the three-year period beginning on such date of enactment, may be appointed as a Foreign Service Reserve officer with unlimited tenure.

LIMITATION OF EXTENSION OF FOREIGN SERVICE RESERVE OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Sec. 18. Paragraph (3) of section 522 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended,⁶⁹ is amended by inserting immediately before the period at the end thereof the following: " ; except that the authority contained in this paragraph relating to extending the appointment of any Reserve officer, and to continuing the services of any such Reserve officer by reappointment, shall not be applicable to the Department of State and the United States Information Agency".

EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AGENCIES

Sec. 19. The provisions of sections 15, 16, and 17 of this Act shall not apply to officers and employees of the Agency for International Development, the Peace Corps, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Approved August 20, 1968.

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY ACT OF 1968

For Legislative History of Act, see p. 3482

PUBLIC LAW 90-495; 82 STAT. 815

[S. 3418]

An Act to authorize appropriations for the fiscal years 1970 and 1971 for the construction of certain highways in accordance with title 23 of the United States Code, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That:

SHORT TITLE

Section 1. This Act may be cited as the "Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1968".

69. 22 U.S.C.A. § 922.